ReNew Ontario

PROGRESS REPORT 2007

Building a Better Ontario

Ontario

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BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO

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Introduction

For the past several decades, government spending on infrastructure lagged behind the pace of growth. This lack of investment had a real impact on the quality of life for Ontarians. Schools were crumbling and hospital closures were threatening access to health care. Inadequate transit systems and aged courthouses were falling behind the needs of our changing communities.

In short, Ontario's infrastructure was unable to meet the requirements of the 21st century. For much too long, not enough infrastructure was built and what we had was poorly maintained. We had reached a point where infrastructure – the very foundation of the quality of our lives – was putting our future at risk.

That was then.

Today, Ontario is at the forefront of change and innovation in modernizing its public infrastructure. Recognizing the need to link long-term infrastructure investments and growth planning, the Province has taken a multi-level and multi-faceted approach to revitalizing Ontario's hospitals, schools, roads and public transit.

ReNew Ontario, introduced in May 2005, is a $30-billion plus, five-year strategic plan to upgrade and transform Ontario's infrastructure to meet the needs of the 21st century. This is the first comprehensive, long-term strategy in the Province's history that deals with infrastructure planning and investment.

It's a plan that will strengthen our economy and our communities. It's a plan that keeps the environment top-of-mind, making Ontario's green track record the strongest it has ever been. It's a plan that works with growth planning to make sure we maximize our investments in public infrastructure.

By the end of the fiscal year 2007-08, the Province's *ReNew Ontario* investment will be more than $18 billion. Investments in infrastructure include:

- $1.2 billion set aside for the MoveOntario initiative for transportation and public transit
- $140 million for the Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative to help rural and small municipalities provide safe and reliable local infrastructure including water and wastewater systems
- $146 million for infrastructure projects as part of the 2006 Fall Economic Stimulus Package to assist communities and families affected by slower economic growth
- $5.9 billion in funding allocated in the 2007 Ontario Budget for hospitals, schools, colleges and universities, transit, highways and rural infrastructure.

Thanks to *ReNew Ontario* and to other, more recent infrastructure investments, the renaissance of Ontario is well underway. Our students are learning in new, renovated and better equipped schools, colleges and universities. We have more walking trails and recreation centres to keep us healthy, and those who need medical care have better access to it, with less time to wait for important procedures. Our public transit systems and our network of highways, roads and bridges are being improved and expanded.

We are building a better Ontario, and can look forward to a prosperous and an environmentally sustainable future. Most importantly, we can be proud of the legacy we leave for future generations.

This report gives a snapshot of our progress to date.

BUILDING

Access to Health Care

THE CHALLENGE: In the decade preceding *ReNew Ontario*, health care faced an uncertain future with the threat of closure and amalgamation of hospital facilities.

The impact on the health system was palpable. Hospital buildings were on average more than 40 years old and all across the province wait times for critical health services were rising. A growing and an aging population meant that the need for innovative health care was going to increase.

THE PLAN:

To shift the focus to renewal and to invest, with our partners, more than $5 billion in health care by 2010 to modernize and upgrade facilities and equipment and expand capacity.

THE PROGRESS:

The transformation of health care in Ontario is well underway.

Ground has been broken for dozens of major hospital projects.

New and expanded cancer treatment facilities are being funded to ensure people have the best possible access to the treatment and care they need. We're keeping pace with the long-term health care needs of our growing and aging population.

Our infrastructure investments in health care and health promotion are helping to keep Ontarians healthy, reduce wait times and provide better access to doctors, nurses and general and specialized health care.

HOSPITAL PROJECTS

By 2010 more than 100 hospital projects will have been funded under *ReNew Ontario* and more than 60 of them will be completed.

Here's a glimpse at some of the projects that are, or will soon be under construction:

Under Construction

- Montfort Hospital in Ottawa – construction began June 2006 and is well on its way to completion in 2009-10. When completed, this facility's bed capacity will increase to 289 inpatient beds. It is expected that capacity for emergency room visits will increase by 73 per cent from 32,850 to 56,960 a year and ambulatory care visits by 83 per cent from 37,470 to 68,770 a year.

In 1996, the Health Services Restructuring Commission was tasked with expediting hospital restructuring. Local hospitals across the province were receiving orders to amalgamate or even to cease operations. Between 1996 and 2000, 22 communities involving dozens of hospitals received directions. "HSCR Legacy Report 1996-2000"

Montfort Hospital in Ottawa is one example. Montfort, a Francophone teaching hospital, was flagged for closure with its services amalgamated with three other hospitals. Today, Montfort Hospital is alive and well – construction of the redevelopment project began in June 2006.

- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Queen Street (Toronto) – groundbreaking was held October 2006 for a component of the Phase 1 redevelopment project. Three new buildings will be built, all designed to provide care in a more homelike, non-institutional setting.
- Sudbury Regional Hospital – construction of Phase Two will consolidate all hospital-based acute and rehabilitation services from three sites into one. Construction of this phase of the project began in March 2007 and is expected to be complete in late 2009. When finished, this state-of-the-art facility will accommodate up to 429 beds.
- North Bay Regional Health Centre – construction of this joint redevelopment project involving North Bay General Hospital and the Northeast Mental Health Centre began in March 2007. When completed, the facility will have 388 new beds, a capacity for 57,000 patient visits a year in a larger emergency room and a capacity for 63,000 patient visits in the ambulatory care centre. The new mental health centre will serve over 500,000 people.
- The Quinte Health Care in Belleville – construction for this redevelopment began in March 2007 and will increase the hospital's capacity by 77 beds.
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre – expansion project started May 2007 and will create space for Sunnybrook's Perinatal and Gynaecology program, including a state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, integrating these services into the hospital's critical care system.
- Trillium Health Centre – construction began in June 2007 on a major expansion project of Trillium Health Centre, Mississauga and on renovation and expansion at Trillium Health Centre, West Toronto.
- St. Joseph's Health Care in London – construction began in June 2007 on the renovation of St. Joseph's Hospital, the first phase of a multi-phased project.

Since the launch of Ontario's Wait Time Strategy in November 2004, the government has invested more than $895 million for approximately 1.3 million additional procedures. This has reduced wait times for cataract surgery (by 41 per cent), cancer surgery (by 16 per cent), angiography (by 50 per cent), MRI and CT scans (by 13 and 24 per cent respectively), among other procedures.

To start construction later in 2007

- Sault Area Hospital – a new hospital, on a new site, that will consolidate services currently delivered at the Plummer Memorial and General sites
- Bluewater Health in Sarnia – major redevelopment project
- Rouge Valley Health System – Ajax and Pickering Hospital redevelopment
- Hamilton Health Sciences – two major projects to redevelop its General and Henderson sites
- Runnymede Health Care Centre in Toronto – new replacement hospital

- Grand River Hospital – Freeport and Kitchener-Waterloo sites restructuring
- Winchester District and Memorial Hospital – redevelopment
- Stratford General Hospital – redevelopment

Cancer Treatment

In order to reduce wait times and improve care for patients with cancer, the government has invested significantly in new and expanded cancer treatment facilities.

- The plan includes funding for new cancer treatment facilities in Barrie, Newmarket, St. Catharines, Oshawa and Sault Ste. Marie. Expansion and redevelopment projects have been announced for Ottawa and Kingston.

Cancer Care Ontario reports that with the significant capital investment in cancer treatment over the past couple of years, wait times for radiation therapy have dropped 33 per cent over the past three years. As well, with the planning and construction related to new and expanded cancer radiation treatment centres across the province, the government is well on its way to meeting the 2014 treatment capacity recommendations made by Cancer Care Ontario.

Long-term Care

- Since April 2005, a total of 39 long-term care projects have been completed, 931 new long-term care beds have been added and more than 4,000 existing beds have been redeveloped.

Health Care Services

- More than $200 million will be invested in medical and diagnostic equipment over the course of *ReNew Ontario*. Wait times for CT scans have been reduced by 24 per cent since 2004.
- The government has invested $50 million to increase the number of spaces in Ontario's medical schools, resulting in a 15 per cent increase in the number of doctors graduating each year, starting in 2011-12.

Promoting Good Health

- The Ministry of Health Promotion was created in 2005 to work on reducing barriers to good health and improving people's health where they live, work, learn and play. Health promotion is an investment in ourselves, our communities, our province and our future.
- The government invested approximately $70 million in 2006-07 to build, expand and renew walking trails, sports facilities and recreation centres in communities such as Temiskaming Shores, Wilmot, London, Hamilton, Kingston, St. Catharines, Bradford and Windsor.
- Residents of Sault Ste. Marie will soon enjoy and benefit from a 20-kilometre, non-motorized trail system thanks to the assistance of a $450,000 provincial investment. The trail will connect the waterfront walkway, Bellevue Park, Algoma University College, Sault College, the new Sault Area Hospital and Fort Creek Conservation Area.

BUILDING

Education Today for Tomorrow's Leaders

THE CHALLENGE: Outdated funding formulas and long-term underinvestment in maintaining schools were crippling school boards, leaving them unable to provide text books – let alone reduce class sizes.

Across the province, students were sitting in schools with leaking roofs, mouldy classrooms, inefficient heating systems and outdated equipment.

Increased enrolment and future labour market demands also require expansion of postsecondary education.

The Rozanski Report (2002) highlighted the woeful state of our schools and the problems of chronic underfunding. Dr. Rozanski called for more than $1.8 billion to be injected into the school system including $50 million for school renewal and $200 million annually to deal with the cost of backlogged repairs.

The federal government estimates that up to 70 per cent of all future jobs created in Canada will require some postsecondary education.

THE PLAN:

To focus on renewal and, with our partners, go beyond the recommendations in the Rozanski Report and invest more than $10 billion over five years to bring Ontario's education infrastructure into the 21st century.

More than $1 billion in *ReNew Ontario* investments has been allocated for colleges and universities.

THE PROGRESS:

Thousands of school remediation projects are helping school boards tackle the backlog of repairs and build new schools where necessary.

We are making sure Ontario schools are *Good Places to Learn*.

At the same time, we have helped Ontario colleges and universities invest in their learning facilities and equipment to prepare almost half a million postsecondary students for life and work in the 21st century.

Our targeted investments in education are working. Our students of all ages are learning in environments that will help them reach their full potential and prepare them for the world they will inherit.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Through the* Good Places to Learn *Initiative

- To date, we've invested $1.5 billion to fund about 6,800 high priority and urgently needed renewal projects such as windows, roofs and boilers. By the end of 2007-08, a further $500 million will have been directed to school boards for high priority projects.

- In addition, we've invested $700 million to build or acquire more than 1,900 new classrooms to support smaller class sizes in primary schools.
- As part of the $4 billion *Good Places to Learn* initiative, more than $1 billion worth of funding will support building approximately 100 new schools across Ontario in the next few years:

  > $700 million will be invested to replace schools that are in poor condition, as part of the $4-billion *Good Places to Learn* initiative.

  > $220 million will be invested to ensure French-language school boards can provide schools in areas where Franco-Ontarians live.

  > $137 million will be invested in new school construction for school boards experiencing pockets of growth in new residential areas.

  The 100 new schools are in addition to the 200 schools that opened or began construction in areas such as the City of Toronto, York Region and the Ottawa area.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Through *ReNew Ontario*, the government is supporting investments of more than $1 billion.

- $600 million to add 14,000 university graduate school spaces by 2009-10, and to increase medical school spaces by 15 per cent. The medical school enrolment expansion includes the creation of new undergraduate medical campuses in four communities – St. Catharines and Kitchener-Waterloo (McMaster University), Windsor (University of Western Ontario), and Mississauga (University of Toronto).
- $540 million to renew university and college facilities and to buy new equipment at colleges, including $250 million in a one-time investment in 2004-05.

Additional investments include:

- The 2006 Fall Economic Stimulus Package allocated an additional $30 million for renovations and energy efficiency projects at 15 colleges across the province.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget provided colleges with $105 million to improve their existing facilities. An additional $50 million was provided for facility expansion at colleges and universities with colleges receiving $35 million and universities receiving $15 million.

BUILDING

Transit, Roads and Highways to Move People and Goods

THE CHALLENGE: Traffic, gridlock and congestion on our roads and highways were threatening our economic prosperity and quality of life.

There were no strategies for better ways to move either people or goods. Capital investments and maintenance for provincial highways idled behind what was needed, while clogged and inefficient international gateways were costing the provincial economy more than $5 billion a year.

In the GTA, gridlock continued to worsen with commute times likely to increase by as much as 45 per cent by 2031. Approximately 70 per cent of GTA highways were almost at total capacity during rush hours. The regional transportation system was disjointed and dysfunctional. There was no plan to deal with the transportation needs of the additional 3.7 million people expected to settle in the Greater Golden Horseshoe within the next 25 years.

In the North, prosperity was stalling and transportation infrastructure was badly in need of an injection of capital funding.

THE PLAN:

Under *ReNew Ontario* more than $11.4 billion in transportation infrastructure initiatives will be undertaken to develop an integrated public transportation system composed of well-maintained provincial highways, local roads and bridges, public transit and efficient border gateways.

THE PROGRESS:

We have transportation strategies in place across the province and we're acting on them.

We're improving highway access and relieving border congestion. We're upgrading local roads and bridges. They are vital regional links that bring people together, provide access to key public services and help get Ontario's goods to market.

We're building safe, efficient public transit that helps the environment, reduces gridlock, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to a cleaner, greener Ontario.

High Occupancy Vehicle lanes on highways 404 and 403 have reduced trip times by an average of 15 minutes. An integrated transportation plan is underway for 10 different public transit systems in the GTA and

Hamilton. Rapid transit is being expanded in Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto and York Region. We are working with our federal and municipal partners to bring rapid transit to Waterloo Region. Eighty-six transit systems in 104 communities are being supported through the Province's gas tax program.

Highway strategies are in place for northern and southern Ontario.

The Southern Ontario Highways Program anticipates the province's booming growth and is designed to accommodate our burgeoning population. Under this $3.4 billion program, 130 kilometres of highways will be built, 64 bridges will be built and 1,600 kilometres of highways and 200 bridges will be repaired.

We're meeting the needs of our growing population, particularly in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and of our northern and rural communities while respecting the environmental imperative to reduce harmful emissions and protect the health of Ontarians.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

- The new Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTTA), established in 2006, will provide better coordination among the 10 public transit systems in the GTA and Hamilton.

The GTTA will develop an integrated transportation plan for local transit, GO Transit and major roads in the GTA and Hamilton, coordinating transit vehicle procurement on behalf of municipalities, management of the fare card system and future operation of GO Transit.

The Northern Ontario Highways Strategy is a record $1.8-billion, five-year plan for highway improvements and expansion in the North. It is a road map for northern prosperity. The strategy increases investment in northern highway infrastructure by nearly 40 per cent over five years while making sure the right investments are made at the right time. No other government has committed so much to transportation in the North over such a period of time. The projects outlined in the strategy will create 45,000 jobs across the province and play a pivotal role in our plan for the economic prosperity of the province as a whole.

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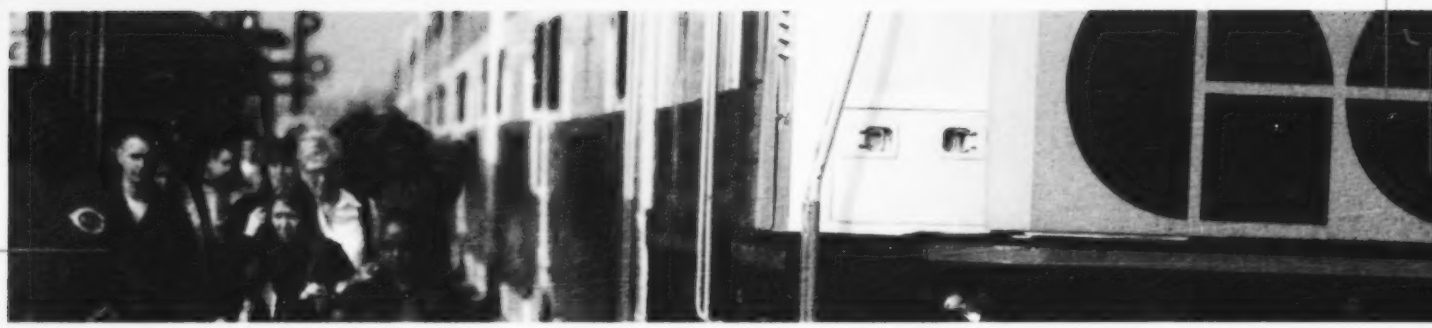


- In June 2007, a new fare card – Presto – linking nine GTA transit systems was announced. Beginning in July 2007, Presto will be introduced on a limited basis in the City of Mississauga for regular GO transit riders who start their trip at the Cooksville or Meadowvale stations and take Mississauga Transit shuttle routes or Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) outbound from Union Station. The Greater Toronto Transportation Authority will assume responsibility of the Presto fare system as it gets rolled out across the region.
- The MoveOntario initiative announced in the 2006 Ontario Budget has secured the federal funding necessary to support the expansion of rapid transit systems in Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto and York Region. These investments could lead to projects totalling nearly $2.5 billion and are expected to create up to 27,000 jobs.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget included new funding of $85 million for the Province's one-third contribution towards Phase 2 of the VIVA rapid transit system in York Region. The federal government and the region are contributing matching amounts.
- The Province and the federal government also recently committed a total of $5 million for transit planning in Durham Region.
- The Province's gas tax program, which was fully implemented in October 2006, provides two cents per litre of the provincial gas tax – more than $300 million per year – to support 86 transit systems in 104 communities by 2010.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget included new funding of $352 million for transit infrastructure distributed to municipalities on the basis of transit ridership.
- The new Ontario Bus Replacement Program will provide predictable, ongoing funding to support municipal bus fleets.
- The new Transit Procurement Initiative has enabled the six participating municipalities to save an estimated $15,000 per bus through a joint purchasing process. It is expected that 65 buses will be purchased in 2007.
- The Province recently committed to supporting 65 per cent of the cost of a rapid transit project in Waterloo Region.
- Ontario remains committed to transit improvements in the City of Ottawa and looks forward to continue working with the City on the future of Ottawa transit.

The Presto card looks like a debit or gift card and can fit into a wallet. Presto contains smart technology that allows fares to be easily calculated and collected on public transit. The card is loaded with a dollar value and is then tapped onto a fare card reader in a transit station or on a bus or train. For more information visit www.prestocard.ca.

In June 2007, the government announced MoveOntario 2020, a 12-year building plan to deliver 52 rapid transit initiatives in the GTA and Hamilton. This multi-year $17.5-billion project will build 902 kilometres of new or improved rapid transit, starting in 2008. The projects include the extension of the Yonge Street subway line to Highway 7; electrifying the GO Lakeshore line and expanding capacity on all GO lines; and two rapid transit lines across Hamilton and light-rail across the City of Toronto. The Greater Toronto Transportation Authority will oversee the project.

PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

- Under *ReNew Ontario*, the government has developed multi-year investment plans totalling $5.2 billion to expand and improve provincial highways in southern and northern Ontario. This funding will help the construction of an additional 190 kilometres of highway and 118 bridges as well as the repair of 3,600 kilometres of highway and 400 bridges.
- Ontario's first-ever High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Highways 404 and 403 have resulted in trip time reductions by an average of 15 minutes. We are moving ahead with plans to open similar high occupancy lanes on Highways 400 and 427 and the Queen Elizabeth Way in the GTA as well as on Highway 417 in Ottawa. The government's HOV lane plan was published on May 24, 2007.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget included new funding to improve traffic flow and safety on provincial highways. New projects proceeding over the next few years include the widening of Highway 10 in Caledon, Highway 401 in Kingston and Highway 417 in Ottawa as well as safety and operational improvements on Highway 17 between Thunder Bay and Kenora. A new alignment of Highway 26 between Collingwood and Wasaga Beach is also slated to be completed by 2010-11.

INTERNATIONAL GATEWAYS

- Windsor – Together with our federal and municipal partners, we're investing over $500 million to improve access at Canada's busiest crossing. A preferred location for a new crossing at Windsor is expected to be identified later in 2007 for an anticipated opening in 2013. In the meantime, numerous short-term and medium-term projects to relieve congestion are now complete or underway.
- Niagara – A fifth lane was added to the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge at the Niagara crossing. This $45-million investment, which was completed in 2005, was shared equally by the federal government, the Province of Ontario and the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission.
- Sarnia – The widening of Highway 402 from the Bluewater Bridge eastward is scheduled to be completed in the next two years.
- Sault Ste. Marie – A new truck route was opened in September 2006. This route will ease congestion and improve access to the International Bridge connecting Ontario and Michigan. More than 130,000 commercial trucks carry about $3.5 billion worth of goods across the border every year.

RURAL AND SMALL TOWN ROADS AND BRIDGES

- Through the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund program, the federal and provincial governments have committed $190 million for 197 road and bridge projects.
- The $400-million MoveOntario investment in roads and bridges announced in the 2006 Ontario Budget has benefited 428 municipalities.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget doubled the Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative to $140 million, including $57 million expected to be used for roads and bridges.
- Infrastructure Ontario's OSIFA Loan Program provides financing to municipalities for roads and bridges. Since 2003, the loan program has provided almost $465 million in low-cost financing for almost 300 road and bridge projects.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget included new, one-time funding of $25 million that municipalities may use for municipal roads across the province.

BUILDING

Ontario's Future through Research and Innovation

THE CHALLENGE: It is crucial that we invest in research and innovation now for Ontario's future prosperity.

THE PLAN:

The Ministry of Research and Innovation was created to focus on the government's commitment to innovation as the driver of growth across all sectors of the economy. The Ontario Research Fund complements the goals and commitments of *ReNew Ontario*. It was created to provide universities, institutes and hospitals with the cutting-edge equipment they need to conduct research, attract and retain high-calibre researchers, and remain at the forefront of their fields.

THE PROGRESS:

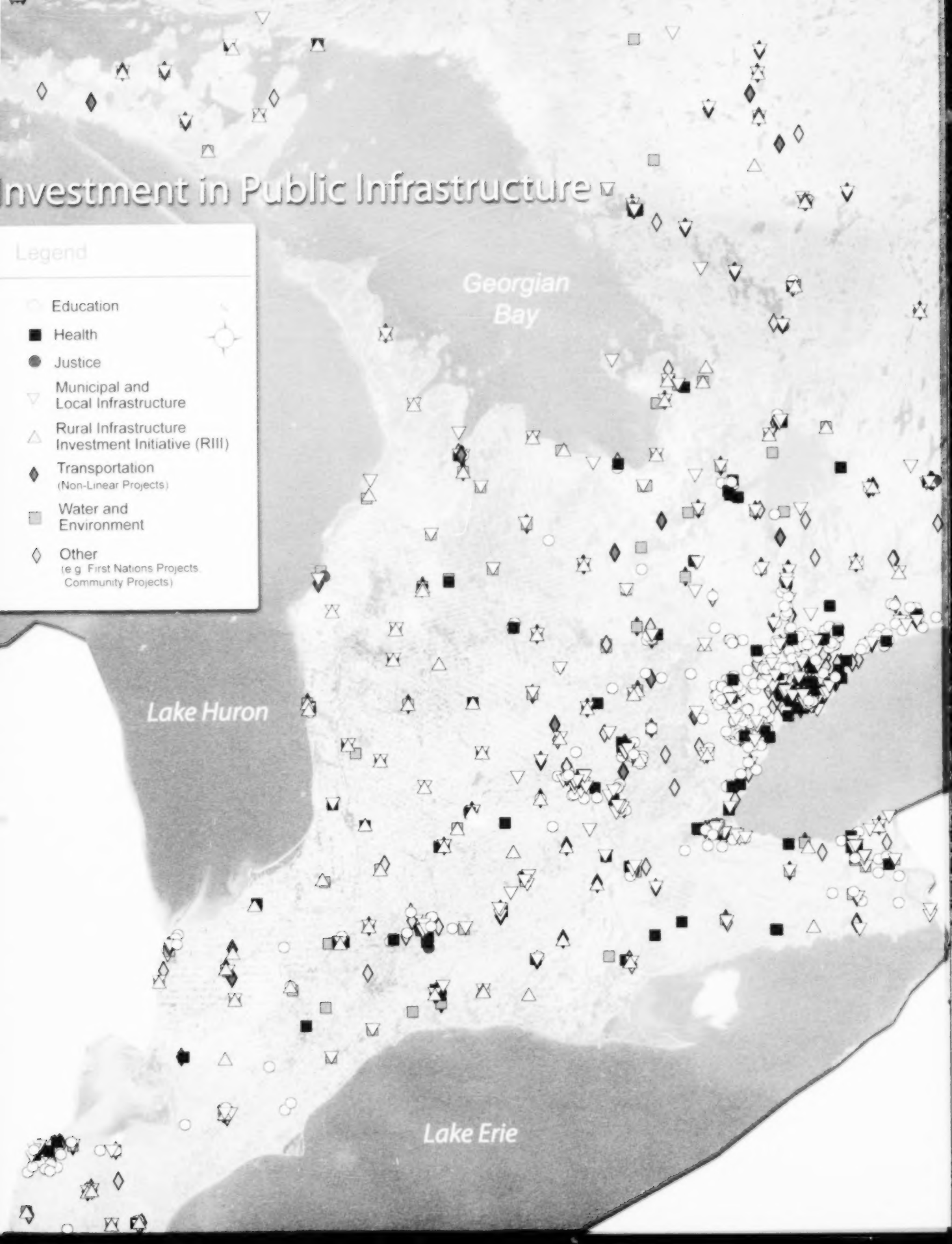
New ideas are being realized in Ontario.

By June 2007, 586 projects received a total commitment of $240 million through the Research Infrastructure Program of the Ontario Research Fund. Recent funding commitments include:

- $8.2 million to create the Centre for the Study of Complex Childhood Diseases at the Hospital for Sick Children. The funding will accelerate research and advance the development of effective therapies for diseases such as cardiovascular disease, asthma, obesity and diabetes.
- $6.7 million to develop the Green Energy and Environmentally Friendly Chemical Technologies Laboratory at the University of Western Ontario. The funding will help develop new discoveries in the production of green energy and products from renewable agricultural resources, such as biofuels.

Investments under the 2007 Ontario Budget include:

- $50 million for the University of Toronto, which is developing the capacity for interdisciplinary research on the creation of jurisdictional economic advantage.
- $21 million for Queen's University, which is working with private sector partners to establish a regional convergence centre specializing in bioprocessing and biomaterials that will help make Ontario a global leader in the field of high-value-added, environmentally sustainable manufacturing.
- $2 million to the Northern Centre for Advanced Technology in Sudbury which has a solid track record for helping companies in Northern Ontario bring innovative products to market.


Investment in Public Infrastructure
Legend
Education
Health
Justice
Municipal and Local Infrastructure
Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative (RIII)
Transportation (Non-Linear Projects)
Water and Environment
Other (e.g. First Nations Projects, Community Projects)
Georgian Bay
Lake Huron
Lake Erie

Lake Ontario
Hudson Bay
Lake Superior

BUILDING

A Sustainable Environment

THE CHALLENGE: Most of Ontario's water and wastewater systems were built in the early and mid-20th century. Some were built in the late 19th century. Nearly 75 per cent of Ontario's water and wastewater infrastructure is underground and remained out of sight and out of mind.

THE PLAN:

To invest almost $1 billion by 2010 to ensure safe drinking water and a sustainable environment that would protect the health of Ontarians today and in the future.

THE PROGRESS:

We're on track – a green track.

We are poised to exceed our *ReNew Ontario* commitment to invest almost $1 billion by 2010 in environmental improvements. We're helping large and small communities across Ontario upgrade their municipal water and wastewater systems to ensure people have safe water. We're also giving a hand to municipalities to clean up brownfield sites and create developments that work with the environment, not against it.

In addition to our environmental commitment under *ReNew Ontario*, we're helping to reduce greenhouse gases by investing in public transit and encouraging sustainable energy use.

CLEANER WATER

- Through all three intakes of the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the federal and provincial governments have committed almost $380 million to help 60 small and rural communities upgrade their water and wastewater systems.
- Since 2003, Infrastructure Ontario's OSIFA Loan Program has committed to providing up to $1.2 billion in financing for municipal water and wastewater projects.
- Through the Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative, we have provided 53 rural and small municipalities with $56 million, which they intend to use to upgrade their water and wastewater systems.
- Funding is also being provided to renew the Great Lakes through the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

Helping to Create Greener Communities

The government is helping to create greener communities across the province and is providing support, resources and opportunities to municipalities so they can undertake key infrastructure projects that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example, under the Municipal Eco Challenge Fund, municipal governments will have access to $200 million in loans and $20 million in grants over the next three years to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

And in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Growth Plan supports a culture of conservation, including land-use patterns and urban design standards that encourage energy-efficient buildings.

CLEANER AIR

- In the 2006 Budget, the government announced the MoveOntario initiative, which provided $838 million in one-time investments to public transit. Through MoveOntario, the government's investment in public transit could lead to projects totalling nearly $2.5 billion.
- In the Greater Toronto Area, investments through MoveOntario have the potential to enable 42 million more transit rides in the region, resulting in 35 million fewer car trips on Ontario roads and highways each year.
- A total of 86 transit systems in 104 communities across the province will benefit from the new 2-cents-per-litre provincial gas tax program.
- MoveOntario 2020, a 12-year $17.5-billion building plan for rapid transit in the GTA and Hamilton that was announced in June 2007, will reduce traffic congestion, cut smog and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- In June 2007, Infrastructure Ontario's OSIFA Loan Program made $200 million worth of loans available for municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CLEANING UP AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Several Ontario communities have a high number of brownfield properties that may act as a barrier to development in strategic locations and could be returned to productive use. The government is providing $11 million to Hamilton, Cornwall, Brantford, St. Catharines and the University of Ottawa.
- We've allocated $10 million for the clean-up of abandoned mines and $5 million to Conservation Authorities, to be matched by municipalities, for upgrades to Conservation Authority dams.
- We've invested in the infrastructure that maintains our natural resources such as Ontario's parks, and aviation and forest fire management facilities.
- The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe is a green plan – ensuring protection of the environment is a priority infrastructure investment.

LEEDing THE WAY

- The government has committed to adopting LEED, the internationally-recognized green design standard, for new government-owned buildings. Some of the projects that will incorporate the LEED standard are the buildings included in the redevelopment of the West Don Lands, an 80-acre brownfield site on the Toronto waterfront; the new Durham Consolidated Courthouse in Oshawa; the Brampton youth justice facility; the Archives of Ontario at York University and the new North Bay Regional Health Centre.
- The government has also launched a green roof pilot project to help fight climate change.

What is LEED?

The ***Leadership*** in ***Energy*** and ***Environmental Design*** Green Building Rating System (LEED) is the most prevalent North American standard for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. It was developed by the United States Green Building Council with a Canadian version introduced through the Canadian Green Building Council.

LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

BUILDING

Safe Communities

THE CHALLENGE: The infrastructure of Ontario's justice system was aging with some facilities more than 75 years old and, for the most part, not accessible to people with disabilities.

Across the province, police were working from less-than-adequate detachment offices. Ontario was stretched to meet current requirements, without much likelihood of meeting future demands for forensic science services and official investigations.

THE PLAN:

Through *ReNew Ontario*, to invest more than $1 billion for justice-sector infrastructure by 2010 to modernize and expand the system to the meet the requirements of the 21ST century and the challenges of investigating crime in a wired and global world.

THE PROGRESS:

The verdict is in: Justice is being served in Ontario in modern, up-to-date facilities.

We have put into place an accelerated new courthouse construction program and we're investing in the revitalization of existing courthouses. Justice facilities from Cornwall to Thunder Bay are being consolidated, modernized and made accessible.

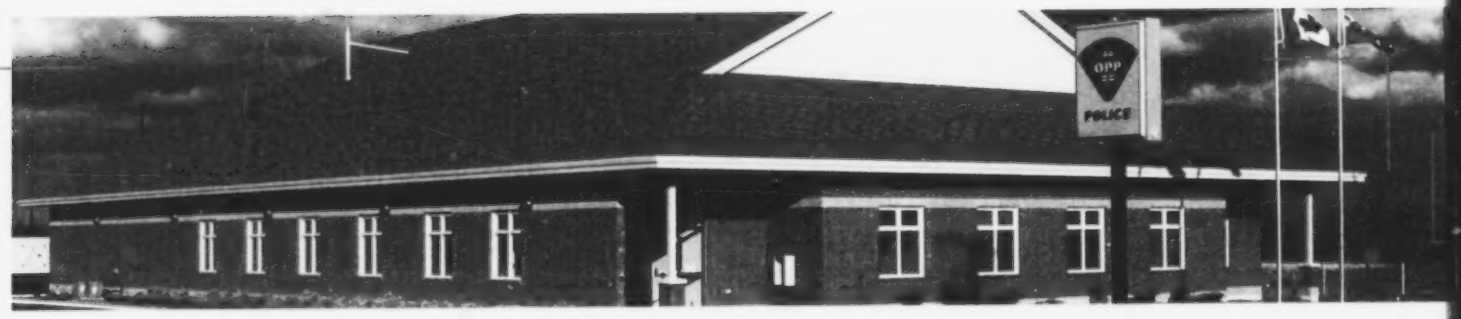
A new youth justice facility being built in Brampton will not only be designed specifically for youth in conflict with the law, but it will also meet the Canada Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) standard.

To help make our communities safe, we're giving the police the tools and resources they need by upgrading and constructing OPP detachments and specialized forensic identification units across the province.

Further, we've established a new Provincial Operations Centre as part of the Anti-Guns and Gangs Strategy and are planning a new Forensic Services Complex to meet present and future needs.

NEW COURTHOUSES

- Construction of the Durham Consolidated Courthouse began in 2007. The new courthouse will consolidate justice services currently delivered from eight locations across Durham Region. It will house 33 courtrooms, five judicial hearing rooms and have space for related justice services. The building design will meet the Canada Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "silver" certification standard.



- In Pembroke, a project consolidating the facilities of four locations into the historic Superior Court facility will be completed this summer. The design for the expanded heritage courthouse, originally built in 1867, was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the American Institute of Architects.
- A major new consolidated courthouse project in Thunder Bay is in the planning phase. Projects in Waterloo, St. Thomas and Quinte have completed the planning studies and the site selection process is now underway. The new facilities will provide more modern, efficient and accessible justice services for local residents and those who use the courthouse.
- Several other courthouses are being upgraded and renovated to improve the use of space and to increase access to the justice system. These include courthouses in London, Cobourg, Sarnia and Cornwall. In Cornwall, for example, an initiative is underway to upgrade the courthouse by adding two new courtrooms and additional holding cells as well as by renovating and expanding spaces for the judiciary, administration and court users. Construction on this project has begun and is scheduled for completion in spring 2008.

NEW DETENTION CENTRES

- The province is moving forward with planning studies for two new detention centres in Toronto and the Windsor area. These centres will replace aging facilities, increase correctional capacity, and support initiatives that reduce crime and improve community safety.
- Construction has begun on a new 192-bed youth justice facility in Brampton that will be finished in 2009. Designed specifically for youth in detention and/or serving secure custody sentences, the facility will replace the Toronto Youth Assessment Centre and the Invictus Youth Centre. The new facility will offer a safe, secure and healthy rehabilitative environment for the effective management of youth in conflict with the law. Like the Durham Consolidated Courthouse, the Youth Justice Facility will meet LEED "silver" certification standard.

NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART PROVINCIAL CENTRES

- We established a state-of-the-art Provincial Operations Centre that will allow for highly coordinated investigations and prosecutions of guns- and gangs-related offences. The centre houses several police services, a team of specialized Crown prosecutors, support staff, probation and parole officers and a victims' unit. In addition, two courthouse facilities in Toronto have been retrofitted to each accommodate a specialized courtroom for multiple accused in a high security environment.
- Planning is currently underway for a new Forensic Services Complex in which the Office of the Chief Coroner and Centre for Forensic Sciences will be located. The facility will significantly enhance Ontario's ability to meet current and future demands by the justice system for forensic science services and official investigations.

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BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO
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Ontario

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

- Five detachment offices will have been upgraded by the end of 2007. They include those in Haliburton Highlands in Minden, Wellington County in Rockwood, Gananoque/Thousand Islands, Grenville County in Prescott and North Grenville in Kemptville.
- Another nine detachment offices will be completed by the end of 2008. These are the offices in Kincardine, Hornepayne, Hearst, Greenstone, Wiarton, Nottawasaga, Temagami, Dufferin and Prince Edward County in Picton.
- In addition, forensic identification units will be completed in 2007 and 2008 in Belleville, Sault Ste. Marie, Tillsonburg, Orillia and Thunder Bay.

BUILDING

Communities with Housing Options

THE CHALLENGE: From 1995 until the *ReNew Ontario* infrastructure investment strategy, virtually no affordable housing was built in Ontario. Demand had grown steadily with about 150,000 households – Ontario families and individuals – having little or no access to a stable, accessible and affordable place to call home.

THE PLAN:

To work with the federal and municipal governments to create affordable housing units for families and individuals with low incomes, seniors, persons living with mental illnesses and victims of domestic abuse.

THE PROGRESS:

Many more Ontario families are living with a sense of security.

Under the 2005 Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, Ontario has committed more than $300 million towards 20,000 new affordable housing units, including 5,000 allowances for low-income households.

Together with our municipal partners and our federal partner, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the following shows progress made by May 1, 2007.

NEW HOUSING:

Rental and Supportive Housing – 159 projects for a total of 6,487 units

- 2,626 units are occupied
- 2,261 units are under construction
- 1,600 units are in planning approvals

Home Ownership – 890 units

- 482 units are occupied
- 7 units are under construction or have purchase and sales agreements
- 401 units are in planning approvals

Northern Housing – 646 units

- 200 units are occupied
- 72 units are under construction/repair
- 374 units are in planning approvals

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2007 Ontario Budget investments included:

- $127 million to municipalities for new affordable housing and/or to rehabilitate existing housing.
- $185 million in operating funding to create more than 27,000 housing allowances.
- $80 million for up to 1,100 off-reserve Aboriginal housing units.

BUILDING

Opportunities for Rural and Northern Ontario

THE CHALLENGE: Declining northern and smaller rural populations, resource-based economies and large distances between many rural and northern communities create a unique set of challenges that range from sustaining and enhancing infrastructure, to creating prosperous communities to stem the outflow of youth.

THE PLAN:

To direct significant investments to northern and rural communities to help them build prosperous economies, create jobs and educational opportunities and ensure a high quality of life.

Through *ReNew Ontario*, we committed approximately $1.8 billion to improve highways in Northern Ontario. We have built on that commitment by targeting investments in health care, affordable housing and in schools, colleges and universities in rural and Northern Ontario – including the new Northern Ontario School of Medicine with campuses in Thunder Bay and Sudbury.

Northern Ontario covers more than 800,000 square kilometres, an area almost one and a half times the size of France, representing nearly 90 per cent of the province's land mass.

THE PROGRESS:

The momentum is growing in the north and in rural Ontario.

We have helped small and rural communities provide safe and reliable infrastructure to their residents, including roads and bridges as well as clean water, wastewater treatment and solid waste management plants. We have also helped sustain communities through investments in schools, hospitals, affordable housing units and cultural centres, sports and recreation facilities and local energy projects.

We have invested in modern and effective public communications infrastructure, providing new ways of delivering key government services across the province.

Our strategic infrastructure investments support our Rural Plan, "Strong Communities Working Together for Success" and our Northern Prosperity Plan to help build communities that will stay vibrant and sustainable for decades to come.

And in May 2007, we announced that Northern Ontario is our next region to have a growth plan developed under the Places to Grow Act.

THE CANADA-ONTARIO MUNICIPAL RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

- Through the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Ontario's small and rural municipalities will receive a combined federal and provincial investment of $578 million for roads, bridges, water, wastewater and solid waste management.
- With municipal contributions, the fund is expected to stimulate up to $900 million in investments for infrastructure to help address local priorities. Seventy-five per cent of the funded projects will be in communities with populations of 25,000 or less.
- In December 2006, the fund launched its $5.96 million Asset Management Program to help eligible municipalities and local service boards improve their capacity to manage their infrastructure assets.

THE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

- In total, 190 communities across Ontario have received a share of the $140 million in Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative funding for roads, bridges, water and wastewater treatment systems as well as cultural, sports and recreation facilities and local energy projects.

KEEPING THE ROADS AND BRIDGES OPEN

- The five-year $1.8 billion Northern Ontario Highway Strategy is an ambitious program of highway rehabilitation and expansion that will help to strengthen the North's economy and link people and communities. This year, we will invest $468 million to expand and repair northern provincial highways.
- Through MoveOntario, we provided one-time funding of $400 million to communities, primarily those outside the Greater Toronto Area, for the maintenance of road and bridges. This included $188 million for rural communities.
- Other northern transportation infrastructure funding for 2007-08 includes $18.3 million for the local roads boards, winter roads and resource access roads programs.

INVESTING IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION

- Under the *Good Places to Learn* renewal initiative we invested $255 million over two years for repairs and renovations to schools so that Ontario's 300,000 rural students have better facilities for learning.

- We also changed the funding formula for schools to recognize the unique needs of northern and rural boards and to protect small schools from closing.
- We're building and modernizing hospitals in northern communities such as North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Mattawa, Sioux Lookout, and Sudbury.
- We recently announced funding for the complete redevelopment of the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital to a state-of-the-art hospital.

BROADENING THE COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

- Through funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, the Province is encouraging the expansion of broadband and cellular services to most of the north within three years.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget included a $10 million investment to help expand broadband coverage in rural southern Ontario.

GROWTH PLAN FOR THE NORTH

- Announced in May 2007, the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario will promote northern prosperity and tackle its unique challenges. The focus will be on achieving a sustained pattern of growth, stimulating opportunities for youth so that they are encouraged to remain in the north, and improving infrastructure networks.
- The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario will build on the Northern Prosperity Plan, using the good work of the Northern Development Councils, as well as the recommendations from northern mayors as an important starting point.

BUILDING

A Vibrant Greater Golden Horseshoe

THE CHALLENGE: The sprawling development in the Greater Golden Horseshoe was affecting Ontario's competitive potential, hurting the economy and damaging our health and quality of life. With close to four million additional people expected to settle in the Greater Golden Horseshoe by 2031 the situation was going to get worse.

THE PLAN:

To invest more than $8.3 billion by 2010 in the Greater Golden Horseshoe to ensure healthy, prosperous and diverse communities today and in the future. In June 2006, we released the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe under the Places to Grow Act, 2005. This is the first time there has been a long-term plan to help municipalities create the right kind of growth, curb urban sprawl, strengthen communities and protect the natural environment. The plan focuses growth on the areas that can best accommodate it and includes targeted infrastructure investments.

Working in tandem with infrastructure planning, growth planning is the cornerstone of building safe, sustainable communities for today and tomorrow.

THE PROGRESS:

Ontario's future is golden – and the Greater Golden Horseshoe is proof.

Health care facilities, schools and affordable housing are being built and upgraded. Public transit for moving people, and roads and highways to move our goods, are expanding. Our greenspaces and our environment are being protected and a dramatic transformation is happening to our cultural institutions.

Simply put, through *ReNew Ontario* and the Growth Plan we're making great communities happen.

The Growth Plan encourages the revitalization of downtowns and city centres. It identifies the infrastructure needed to support future growth. It complements the province's greenbelt plan that protects 1.8 million acres of valuable farmland and natural areas. It ensures planned communities that offer more choices in housing, better transit and a range of amenities from shops to schools, entertainment to parks.

The Growth Plan was recognized by the American Planning Association with its prestigious 2007 Daniel Burnham Award – given to the plan that best represents the association's slogan, Making Great Communities Happen. This is the first time a plan from outside the United States has won this great honour. The association selected our plan because of its visionary, pragmatic and coordinated approach to sustainable growth and development.

Developing growth plans that work requires careful thought and input from all us – policy makers, businesses, municipal leaders, planning and environmental experts and individuals of all ages from seniors to youth.

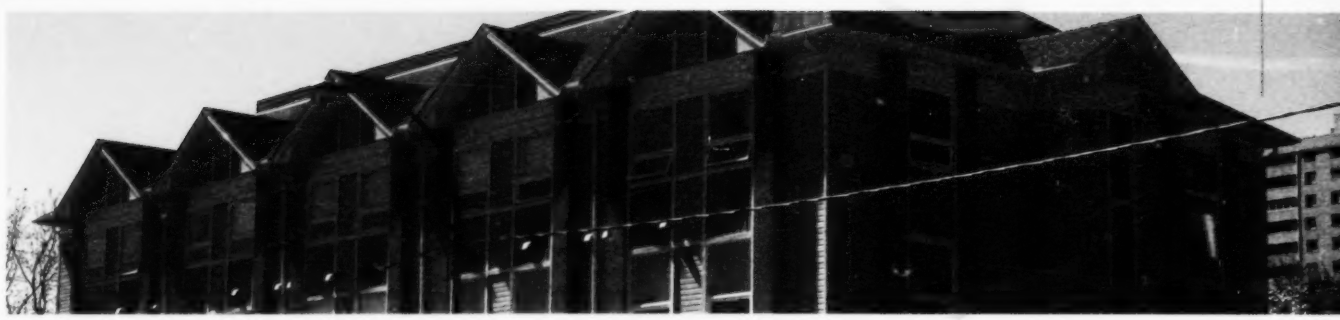
BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Hospital projects under construction include the Trillium Health Centre – expansion of the Mississauga site and renovation and expansion of the Queensway campus – and expansion of the Sunnybrooke Health Sciences Centre.
- Projects that will be under construction later in 2007 include Hamilton Health Sciences – General and Henderson site redevelopment; Grand River Hospital – Kitchener-Waterloo and Freeport site redevelopment; Rouge Valley Health System's Ajax and Pickering Hospital and Runnymede Health Care Centre in Toronto.
- The plan also includes funding for new cancer treatment facilities in Barrie, Newmarket, St. Catharines and Oshawa.

REDUCING CONGESTION

- A new fare card – Presto – linking nine GTA transit systems will be introduced in July 2007 on a limited basis in the City of Mississauga for regular GO transit riders who start their trip at the Cooksville or Meadowvale stations and take Mississauga Transit shuttle routes or Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) outbound from Union Station. By 2010, Presto will be the way to go in Brampton, Burlington, Durham Region, Hamilton, Mississauga, Oakville and York Region. The TTC will accept the card at five subway stations: Union, Finch, Downsview, Don Mills, and Islington. The TTC continues to evaluate how they might further implement the fare system beyond 2010. Presto will help create a seamless transit network throughout the GTA and Hamilton area.
- Federal funding has been secured for the MoveOntario initiative announced in the 2006 Ontario Budget to support the expansion of rapid transit systems in Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto and York Region.
- The 2007 Ontario Budget included new funding of $85 million for the Province's one-third contribution towards Phase Two of the VIVA rapid transit system in York Region. The federal government and the region are contributing matching amounts.
- The province and the federal government recently committed $5 million for transit planning in Durham Region.

This year we asked 48 young people, aged 16 and 17, from eight urban growth centres to bring their youthful expertise to the table. Their first assignment, carried out in April, was to visit and study their downtowns. They were asked to think about places to live, to work, to play and to shop, and then to share their ideas on how we could make their downtowns more attractive and more livable for people of all ages. We were very impressed with their suggestions. Our youth team has recently completed its assignment to develop a 30-year vision for the eight town centres.



- Ontario's first-ever High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Highways 404 and 403 have resulted in trip time reductions of 14 to 17 minutes. We are moving ahead with plans to open similar high occupancy lanes on Highways 400 and 427 and the Queen Elizabeth Way in the GTA.
- In June 2007, the government announced MoveOntario 2020 the 12-year building plan that will deliver 52 rapid transit initiatives in the GTA and Hamilton. This multi-year $17.5 billion project will build 902 kilometres of new or improved rapid transit, starting in 2008. The projects include the extension of the Yonge Street subway line to Highway 7; electrifying the GO Lakeshore line and expanding capacity on all GO lines; two rapid transit lines across Hamilton and light-rail across the City of Toronto. The Greater Toronto Transportation Authority will oversee the project.

BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES WITH PLACES TO LIVE AND PLACES TO LEARN

- Affordable housing is being built, bringing more options to senior citizens, families with low income and victims of domestic violence.
- Schools across the Greater Golden Horseshoe are being replaced and repaired, and universities and colleges are receiving funding to buy new equipment. Students of all ages have good places to learn and to reach their potential.
- The justice system infrastructure is receiving attention. Construction has begun on a new consolidated courthouse for Durham Region and a new youth justice facility in Brampton. A state-of-the art Provincial Operations Centre has been established as part of the Guns and Gangs strategy that will allow for highly coordinated investigations and prosecutions of guns-and-gangs related offences.

Ontario in the 21st Century

Public infrastructure is more than bricks and mortar. It is critical to Ontario's economic competitiveness, the health of the environment and our people, not only for this generation but for generations to come.

Previous governments took an ad hoc, crisis-driven approach to infrastructure spending. They considered it a short-term cost, when in reality it is a long-term investment – an investment with social and economic paybacks.

But any government facing the challenge of large-scale public infrastructure redevelopment must "play the long game" by looking at ways to rebuild and revitalize public infrastructure not only for the benefit of its present citizens, but also for its future citizens as well.

That's why in 2005 we introduced *ReNew Ontario*, a plan for decades and generations – not just tomorrow. We look forward 10, 20, 30 years into the future, to a time when our children and our grandchildren can benefit from the work we are doing now.

ReNew Ontario marks the beginning of the most aggressive building campaign in two decades – and momentum is gathering. Schools that once were old and crumbling are now providing excellent learning environments for students. The biggest single investment in hospitals in generations is seeing results with significantly reduced wait times. Expanded public transit systems mean less gridlock, reduced commute times and a cleaner, greener Ontario.

Instead of taking a short-sighted, short-term approach, our commitment to revitalize, modernize and expand Ontario's public infrastructure reaches across generations. Together with our partners, we will continue to work to meet the needs of today, while always keeping on eye on the future as we build.

By dovetailing infrastructure planning and investment with growth planning – not just for the rapidly growing, heavily populated Greater Golden Horseshoe but also for other, less populated regions like Northern Ontario – we are making great communities happen.

Tell us what you think. We invite your comments and we welcome your ideas. Together, we will make sure our economy thrives, our environment and natural resources are protected and preserved, and quality of life is enhanced for all Ontarians.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal
www.ontario.ca/infrastructure

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